



New Research: More Than One Billion Dollars of Public Funding Has Gone to Anti-Abortion Centers

July 2024

For decades, state and federal tax dollars have been funneled to anti-abortion centers (AACs). Since 2020, Equity Forward has conducted investigative research on AACs (sometimes referred to as, “crisis pregnancy centers”) and how states have financially supported and legitimized them through Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) programs.

Its new research provides, for the first time, a full funding portrait of public dollars invested into A2A programs and individual AACs at the state level since the practice began.

Methodology and Key Findings

Equity Forward examined records from 23 states that have allocated public dollars to AACs from 1995, the first verifiable instance of funding, through July 23, 2024,¹ identifying the total that states have allocated since the *Dobbs* decision in 2022 and quantifying the total amount in state general fund and federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) dollars that have gone to A2A programs to date.

More than \$1.13 Billion² in Public Funding Has Gone to AACs Since 1995³

Since 1995, states have allocated **more than \$1.13 billion in tax dollars to AACs through state-run A2A programs or via other funding streams**. The revenue sources used vary by state, with some exclusively using state dollars while others use a combination of state and federal dollars.

AACs use public dollars to fund tactics and programs that not only aim to delay, deceive, and discourage those in search of abortion care but also act as an unnecessary barrier to pregnant people looking for other medical care and support services.

¹ Equity Forward tracked public funding (namely from state general funds and federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) dollars) allocated to anti-abortion centers through state A2A programs and infusions of funding to individual AACs starting from the first verifiable funding instance in 1995 through states' 2024 legislative session actions as of July 23, 2024.

² Totals are compiled from amounts that could be verified using state budget appropriations and documents acquired through public records requests.

³ The first Alternatives to Abortion Program, a program established by and funded through the state legislature to provide tax-payer support to anti-abortion centers, was in Pennsylvania, with its first verifiable instance of funding in 1995.

Nearly \$200 Million in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Funding Has Gone to AACs Since 2001

In 2001, the federal government allowed states to begin directing TANF funds to AACs through state A2A programs. Since the practice began, **nearly \$200 million in TANF funds has been funneled to AACs in nine states.**

The practice of funneling TANF dollars to AACs began in Pennsylvania, led by then U.S. Senator Rick Santorum and approved by the Bush Administration. Since then, the practice has been adopted, at times, by nine different states.

TANF dollars are supposed to give direct assistance to help struggling families with children pay for essential needs, including rent, food, and childcare, but instead are being funneled to programs that provide more in the way of propaganda than support.

Since the *Dobbs* Decision, States Have Allocated More Than \$489 Million

As abortion access has been restricted or eliminated in nearly half the states, funding for anti-abortion centers has grown considerably. **Since *Dobbs*, more than \$489 million has been allocated to AACs in 22 states.** The states who have given the most to AACs since June 2022 are:

- **Florida** – Amount allocated since *Dobbs* has surpassed its entire pre-*Dobbs* funding total.
- **Missouri** – Immediately increased its total funding for its A2A program by 42.58%
- **North Carolina** – Has more than doubled its pre-*Dobbs* funding total.
- **Tennessee** – Began funding AACs in 2021, going from \$0 to \$26.5M in AAC funding in under three years.
- **Texas** – In the two years since *Dobbs*, the state has nearly matched the total amount given to its A2A program in the 17 years prior.

Florida now ranks #3 for the highest overall public funding to AACs to date. The five states that have funneled the most to AACs over time are:

- 1) **Texas** = \$438,098,791
- 2) **Pennsylvania**⁴ = \$158,461,000
- 3) **Florida** = \$112,552,845
- 4) **Missouri** = \$86,982,414
- 5) **Minnesota**⁵ = \$48,593,000

⁴ Pennsylvania and Minnesota ended funding for A2A programs in 2023 and reallocated funding to comprehensive parenting, health care, and pregnancy programs. However, Equity Forward found evidence of continued AAC funding in Minnesota and Pennsylvania.

⁵ Ibid.

Equity Forward Anti-Abortion Center Funding by States As of July 23, 2024				
State	Funding Period*	Total AAC Funding to Date [^]	Total TANF Funding to Date [°]	Total Funding Since <i>Dobbs</i> Decision ⁺
Arizona	2021-2023	\$4,500,000	\$0	\$3,000,000
Arkansas	2022-present	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$4,000,000
Florida	2005-present	\$112,552,845	\$0	\$64,052,845
Georgia	2016-present	\$17,322,901.22	\$0	\$4,229,051.47
Indiana	2014-present	\$33,240,000	\$25,749,994	\$14,995,000
Iowa	2022-present	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$2,500,000
Kansas	1999-present	\$12,773,350	\$0	\$5,694,230
Louisiana	2002-present	\$33,783,512	\$29,613,512	\$8,565,000
Michigan	2013-2019	\$3,300,000	\$1,700,000	\$0
Minnesota [∇]	2005-2023	\$48,593,000	\$0	\$3,457,000
Missouri	2002-present	\$86,982,414	\$44,700,000	\$25,975,683
Nebraska	2021-present	\$12,531,765	\$9,531,765	\$11,437,772
North Carolina	2013-present	\$49,283,341	\$0	\$33,574,904
North Dakota [°]	2005-present	\$6,200,000	\$3,700,000	\$2,050,000
Ohio	2013-present	\$35,583,939.27	\$17,858,633	\$22,158,333
Oklahoma	2006-present	\$28,358,935	\$0	\$21,005,000
Pennsylvania	1995-2023	\$158,461,000	\$21,500,000	\$10,894,500
South Carolina	2022-present	\$8,400,000	\$0	\$8,400,000
Tennessee	2021-present	\$26,516,000	\$0	\$23,333,100
Texas	2005-present	\$438,098,791	\$45,000,000	\$215,011,366
Utah	2024-present	\$645,000	\$0	\$645,000
West Virginia	2023-present	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$4,000,000
Wisconsin	1997-present	\$2,841,800	\$0	\$207,300
TOTALS		\$1,130,468,593.49	\$199,353,904	\$489,186,084.47

Notes:

***Funding Period** – The time period, in calendar years, that public funding has gone to anti-abortion centers through Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) Programs and infusions of funding to individual AACs from the first verifiable instance of funding in the state.

[^]**Total AAC Funding to Date** – Includes all public funding to anti-abortion centers including those going to Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) Programs from state general revenue, TANF, and other miscellaneous sources for the length of the funding period shown. This total includes the amount (if any) shown in Total TANF Funding to Date column.

[°]**Total TANF Funding to Date** – Includes only funding from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for the length of the funding period shown. This amount is included in the Total AAC Funding to Date Column. This tally comprises both federal TANF block grants and TANF maintenance of effort (MOE).

⁺**Change in Funding Since *Dobbs* Decision** – Because most states' fiscal years run from July 1 to June 30 of the following year, post-*Dobbs* funding is tallied from the beginning of most states' FY 2023 on July 1, 2022, to the present (FY 2025 legislative authorizations enacted as of July 23, 2024); Michigan and Texas operate on different fiscal calendars.

[∇] Michigan, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania ended public funding for their A2A programs. However, Equity Forward found evidence of continued AAC funding in Minnesota and Pennsylvania.

[°] Equity Forward is unable to verify enacted appropriations for North Dakota's Alternatives-to-Abortion Services Program for the state's 2011-2013 and 2015-2017 fiscal biennia. Based on prior and subsequent funding trends, it is possible that \$800,000 to \$1 million in federal TANF funds were appropriated to the A2A program across these biennia; this estimate is not included in the table.